

a great deal of money is made here from each of these occupations. Grain and stock are raised in nearly all parts of the state, and fruit raising is also quite extensive; but in the Willamette valley in Western Oregon, for 100 miles north and south of Albany, is said to be the paradise of fruit-growers.

This business has not been developed here yet, as it has been in California; and fruit lands whose real value is fully equal to those of California, command a comparatively small price. During my travels in California last year I found unimproved fruit land generally selling at \$100 to \$200 per acre, while in the Willamette valley of Oregon it is now worth \$10 to \$60 per acre.

There is an immense profit in these lands, when the fruit is produced; and people are now taking advantage of this here and setting out large orchards of prunes, pears, cherries, plums, peaches and apples. In California an acre of good fruit-land with trees five years old is worth from \$500 to \$1,000 in a fair location; and this is not unreasonable, when a single crop from this acre sells at \$200 to \$400.

The same profit can be made in Oregon from the fruit, and in the increased value of the land a far greater profit; because lands in Oregon are so much below California prices. In Oregon prunes and Bartlett pears are most profitable, since both command a good price and bear shipment well. The Pacific coast prunes are greatly superior to others raised in our country, and hence the demand for them in eastern markets. It is safe to say that a farmer here can easily make \$5 where he can make \$1 in Virginia, and so other classes of industrial workers and nearly all professional men here are better paid than on the Atlantic slope or Mississippi valley. These practical advantages together with the grand scenery make this section wonderfully attractive.

A few days ago an exploring party was sent out by the *Seattle Press* to penetrate the unknown region about Mount Olympus. It is under the command of Charles A. Barnes, formerly a lieutenant in the navy, and expects to bring back much valuable information about that *terra incognita*. A code of signals has been prepared, and the party will endeavor to signal from some mountain peak at various dates agreed upon when there is no moon to dim the light. The dates and hours selected for signaling are the eleventh or twelfth, or the nineteenth or twentieth of January, February and March, between eight and nine p. m., and between nine and ten p. m. on the same dates in April, May and June. As the difficulty of getting their supplies and materials across the mountains is very great, it is hardly expected that they will be in position to send any signals in January. The signaling will be preceded by an illumination of red fire. Enough material, hermetically sealed, has been carried into the mountains to keep a red flame forty feet high burning for an hour. Of course this flame will be concentrated and burned for a shorter time and in a larger volume that it may be more plainly visible. After the illumination will come the series of messages sent by means of magnesium cartridges. These cartridges give out a great flash of the most powerful artificial light known to the world. The signaling could be seen from any of the Olympic peaks, but it is the intention to send the signals from a peak near the summit of Mount Olympus, and possibly from the very summit of that mountain itself. Mount Olympus is 8,150 feet high, and is the highest and most northerly peak of the Olympic range. The people of Victoria will have an excellent opportunity to read the signals, at that is the nearest city facing that mountain peak.

An experiment costing \$80,000 is being made by the great Anaconda company in the system of electric refining of copper

matte. If this is successful a large and costly plant will be put in and in future refining will be done in Montana instead of sending the matte from the smelters to eastern or European refineries. This will effect an enormous saving and will add one more element of prosperity to the new state. The location of the new refinery has not yet been settled upon, and several places are eager to secure it. It was considered certain that the location would be selected at Three Forks. The building of the Butte & Gallatin branch, the election of Mr. Haggin as a director of the Northern Pacific, the interest purchased by the Anaconda people in the Rocky Fork coal mines, all pointed toward Three Forks as a location for the big refinery. But of late talk is heard that the Rocky Fork coal, after repeated experiments, is proving unsatisfactory, and if this is the case, the location is probably in doubt. The Great Falls people are full of hope, and are exerting themselves to induce the Anaconda company to build up there, while Missoula is putting forward her expectations. The location of the refinery at Anaconda is out of the question on account of the lack of water, and if the Rocky Fork coal is unsatisfactory, Great Falls probably occupies the leading position in the race.

North Yakima is taking active measures to secure railroad connection with Portland. The *West Shore* has several times called attention to the fact that a railroad into the Yakima country is one of the most important lines Portland could build. A proposition has been made to construct a railroad from some point on the Columbia, in Clarke county, to North Yakima within two years, to make that town a division headquarters and build shops there, provided North Yakima people raise a bonus of \$100,000. A committee to raise the money was appointed, consisting of G. W. Jones, Capt. J. H. Thomas, Wm. Ker, J. C. MacCrimmon, John Bartholet, S. W. Lowe and W. A. Cox. Notes are to be taken which will be turned over to a committee consisting of Hon. L. S. Howlett, J. D. Cornett, of the Yakima National bank, and W. L. Steinwig, of the First National bank, who will hold the same in trust until the conditions of the agreement made with the railroad company are complied with. None of the money is to be paid until the completion of the road, and subscription notes are to draw five per cent. interest. Active building is to commence from the west within one hundred and twenty days, and at the Yakima end inside of six months, and at least \$100,000 expended in Yakima county during the first year, providing the bonus is guaranteed.

The Fourth of July mine, one of the richest in the Okanogan country, Washington, has been purchased by a syndicate of Helena, Butte and St. Louis capitalists who are to push its development. That the property will shortly rank among the large silver producers of the northwest and become a great dividend paying property is not doubted by any competent mining men who have visited the mine. The vein is a true fissure, well defined and lies in granite. The general character of the vein matter is very similar to that of the famous Granite mountain at Phillipsburg, Mont. The vein is exposed on the surface for a distance of 320 feet and shows streaks of ore, varying from six inches to six feet, that assay all the way from 50 to 14,000 ounces in silver to the ton. On the seventy-five foot level the face of the north drift shows an ore body four feet in thickness which assays 297 ounces in silver. A single car load of the ore shipped recently to the Helena smelter netted the owners, for ten tons, \$4,049 after paying all expense of freight and treatment.

An illustration of the change that often occurs in the minerals contained in quartz ledges is that of the Cable company,